

## Amusements, Theatres, etc., This Evening.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—At 1: Italian Opera: "Mascara."—Lettice. At 8: "The Two Orphans."  
 ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Brooklyn.—"La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein." Mrs. Howard Park.  
 BOOTH'S THEATRE, Twenty-third-st., between Fifth and Sixth aves.—At 8: "The Two Orphans."—Mrs. Merritt.  
 FIFTH-AVE. THEATRE.—At 8 and 9: "Surf."  
 NIBLO'S GARDEN.—"Duke's Motto." Fechter.  
 OLYMPIC THEATRE.—At 8 and 9: "Amindia Sleek." "The Spiders." G. L. Fox.  
 THEATRE FRANCAIS.—At 1: Opera Bouffe: "La Grande Duchesse." At 8: "East Lynne," in French.  
 THE TAMMANY.—At 2 and 8: "The Glorious Revolution."  
 WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirtieth.—At 1: "Our" Lester Wallace. At 8: "School for Scandal."  
 WOOD'S MUSIC, Broadway and 30th-st.—From 9 a. m. to 10 p. m. At 8 and 9: "Tues." etc. Grand.  
 APOLLO HALL, Twenty-eighth-st. and Broadway.—McKee's New Liberator.  
 LERDS' ART GALLERIES, Nos. 817, 819, and 821 Broadway.—The Tenth Muse. At 8: "The Two Orphans." National Academy of Design.—Third Winter Exhibition.  
 NEW-YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth-st.—At 2 and 8: Grand Programme. "Cinderella." Equestrianism.  
 PLYMOUTH CHURCH, Brooklyn.—At 4: Organ Concert.  
 SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS.—Miscellaneous performances.  
 YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—At 8: Concert.

MRS. WALTER C. LYMAN: St. Ann's Church, Regent-st.—At 8: "The Two Orphans."  
 JAMES FAIRMAN'S STUDIO, No. 212 Fifth-ave.—Open till 10 p. m.  
 BAYARD TAYLOR, Irving Hall: "Life in Europe and America."

## Business Notices.

DECISION ON STEAM BOILERS.  
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## THE TRIBUNE IN PARIS.

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## UP-TOWN ADVERTISEMENTS.

For the accommodation of up-town residents Mr. E. H. Brown has opened an office at No. 64 West Thirty-second-st., junction of Broadway and Sixth-ave., where advertisements for THE TRIBUNE will be received up to 7 1/2 in the evening.

## New York Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1870.

## TRIPLE SHEET.

The Dominion Government will hold the Hudson Bay Company responsible for any delay in the completion of the railway. The Dominion Government has been defeated in the Newfoundland Legislature, by a large vote. Gen. Gontoum has landed with an expedition in Eastern Cuba, where the capture of a convoy and several garrisons are reported. The non-recognition of the Haytian Commissioner is announced from Washington. The endorsement of scientific schools is demanded by English Professors. The Prussian Government agrees with American policy toward China. Egypt has, it is said, entered into alliance with Greece. The Senate yesterday refused to take up the House bill abolishing the Franking Privilege—22 to 34; a joint resolution was reported providing for taking meteorological observations with a view to give notice of approaching storms. In the House, a resolution was adopted authorizing an investigation as to whether any Congressmen have held appointments to the Military or Naval Academies; bills were introduced providing for the payment of pensions, and regulating the sale of oil; the bill for the relief of the poor of Washington was passed. Resolutions have been introduced in the Florida House to impeach Gov. Reed. Gov. Chamberlain yesterday entertained the British naval officers at Augusta. Several persons were injured by an explosion of gas in a Lowell church. Gold has been discovered in Clarke County, Ill. The Philadelphia Metropolitan Police bill has passed the Pennsylvania Legislature. A riot occurred at Berkeley, Miss., and 72 negroes were arrested. The thermometer yesterday was 24° below zero at Bangor, Me. An attempt has been made near Hyde Park to throw the Long Island Railroad train from the track. Owen Bowditch, a Broadway merchant, committed suicide. The City Budget bill for \$2,954,349 to be raised by tax for 1870. A bond robbery, involving several thousand dollars, has been discovered in the office of the Fireproof Warehouse Company. Henry A. Wilmerding, a prominent merchant, is dead. The small-pox excitement is over. Gold, 129 1/2. Temperature, 19, 26, 22, 28.

We print on the first page this morning, the twelfth of the Letters from Next Door, a notice of some interesting developments of Popular Culture in New England, and a letter of Art and Literary gossip from Boston on the 6th and 7th of January. The Letters from the United States and that of Canada, in contrast, two of Mr. Greeley's articles on Farming, and Miscellaneous; on the Fourth, Foreign Correspondence, Iron in Southern Ohio, and Letters from the People; on the Fifth, the proceedings of Congress, General News, and Local Miscellany; on the Eighth, New Publications; and on the Eleventh, Agricultural and Miscellaneous.

Mr. Bayard Taylor is to deliver a lecture on "Life in Europe and America," this evening, at Irving Hall, for the benefit of the fund for disabled soldiers and sailors. The cause, no less than the lecturer, should command a full house.

The general moral of the contest in Cuba—now prolonged for a year and a half, and made an enigma to some and an outrage to others—is that fiction does not pay as a means of carrying on war. Whether a Spaniard or a Cuban be responsible for the terrible rook-back that 350 men were slaughtered in Havana, it equally fails; but the public will look, we think, with just consideration

upon Mr. Aldama's statement. He assuredly represents the party which by choice and by necessity is the more honorable, and the more candid, of the two fighting in Cuba.

We regret the delay in the Senate on the Census bill, and still more the disposition manifested to give no serious consideration to the subject. The scene yesterday seems to have been exceptionally discreditable.

The vote of the Senate on the rejection of Attorney-General Hoar, nominated for a vacancy on the Supreme Bench, will attract special attention. It is to be found in our Washington column, and is in various ways a suggestive record.

The annual onslaught, with clubs and the like, on THE TRIBUNE continues with unabated, indeed with increasing, force. Some faint hint of its severity may be gathered from the column of significant letters printed on our fourth page.

The subject of Christian Club life is most novel and unique, and has attractions, not less religious, we trust, and yet more human than some old forms of Christian association. Why should not Christian paternity have a life-giving socialism altogether its own? That must be the question, we think, after reading the description on our first page.

While many are multiplying words without knowledge concerning the actual cost of pig iron, there will be not a few readers glad to see some simple dispassionate statements of facts about its manufacture. One of our correspondents has lately made a trip through the coal and iron region of Southern Ohio, and his observations thereon may be found on our fourth page.

The Newfoundlanders have roughly snubbed their Governor by voting no confidence and no Confederation in the ratio of 21 to 8, in response to an amiable hope to the contrary. Anti-Confederation in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward's Island perhaps, and certainly in British Columbia and Rupert's Land, is a stubborn fact. Can the Dominion leaders go with the tide and manage it, or will they accept this issue broadly: Confederation with more and more imperialism, with more and more Sir Johns, and Sir Jacobs, and another Winnipeg or two perhaps—or Independence with just a chance at Annexation here and there if they are willing, and—if we are.

From the two ways of conducting Indian affairs suggested in articles which we print elsewhere side by side, our Government and people may take a useful hint. One of them is a report, and a very interesting one, by Col. Parker, himself an Indian, and well fitted to be Commissioner for the Indians, and the other is by U. S. Consul Blake of Hamilton, C. W. Col. Parker shows us what policy has become necessary to save us from the troubles entailed by a mercenary habit of peddling and neglect in our Indian affairs. Canada has a better story to tell. Her Indians are, as a whole, peaceful and satisfied; they do not scalp, nor are they hunted down at a cost of a million per Indian. In short, they have served their place as the natural custodians of the wilderness, and have gradually been drafted into the service of civilization. In view of the Indian rumors from Winnipeg, these facts should be borne in mind.

Mr. Lawrence introduced a bill in the House yesterday to alter the present mode of paying pensions. The bill provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall select in every county a National Bank, a Postmaster, an Assessor or Collector of Internal Revenue, or other existing Government officer, to prepare all papers pertaining to the payment of pensions, for pensioners, free of cost, and that pensions shall be paid every three months, instead of semi-annually, as now. Though this is an improvement on the present system, yet payment every three months is not what the pensioners want. Their necessities demand monthly payments, and the impracticability of such payments through the Post-Office has never yet been demonstrated. Two months ago the House adopted a resolution, offered by Gen. Butler, asking the Postmaster-General to report a plan for paying the pensions through the money-order department of the Post-Office. We would like to ask why this resolution has not been acted upon.

## THE BANKRUPT ACT.

As the operations of this most useful law are being more clearly defined and understood, the community are becoming more and more satisfied with its provisions.

We still think it susceptible of advantageous amendment. Especially do we think the General Orders made by the Supreme Court require revision.

A misapprehension as to the effect of what is called the "fifty per cent. clause" has, we think, a good deal detracted from the usefulness of this law. It is supposed that no petitioner is entitled to a discharge unless his assets pay fifty per cent. of the claims against his estate. This is an error. It is true that the act, as originally passed, had such a clause, the operation of which was postponed one year. Before the expiration of that year, Congress passed an amendatory act which repealed that clause, and provided, in place thereof, that no petitioner should be entitled to his discharge after the 1st day of January, 1869, unless his assets shall be equal to fifty per centum of the claims proved against his estate upon which he shall be liable as principal debtor, unless the assent in writing of a majority in number and value of such of his creditors as shall have proved their claims before the Register be obtained. There is no provision for ascertaining the value of these "assets;" prima facie, they amount to the sum at which they are set down in the schedules, and in the absence of proof to the contrary, it would obviously be the duty of the Register to certify "conformity" in case such sum were equal to one-half of the amount of the claims proved before him. In a large majority of cases, no claims at all are proved; and, in such a case, the District Court for New-Jersey held that, although no assets were reported in the schedules, yet, as no debts were proved, the petitioner was entitled to his discharge.

But, upon the other branch of the case, the bankrupt has only to get a majority in number and amount of such of his creditors as have proved their claims before the Register to sign a simple consent to his discharge. This, it would seem, would be no very difficult task. The small proportion of the creditors who are accustomed to prove their claims—perhaps on an average not one in a thousand—renders it in many cases no task at all. It is said that in proceedings under the Massachusetts Insolvent act—which contains a similar provision, though more complicated and difficult—

not a single case has occurred in which the petitioner failed to get his discharge.

We trust this most wholesome act, which has already had so beneficial an effect upon our commercial system, may from time to time pass under such revisions as to silence all clamor for its repeal.

## COME UP TO THE WORK!

THE Evening Post makes a suggestion which THE TRIBUNE heartily seconds and commends to the favor of honest men in Congress without distinction of party. The Post says: "If the revenue reformers will introduce Mr. Wells's tariff, they will have a measure of their own to support—a bill which has the authority of the most eminent statesman of the country, of a man whose estimates have invariably been justified by events; whose acquaintance with the industry of the country is the most complete possessed by any man. In offering and supporting that bill, they may confidently assure the country that it will bring a hundred and fifty millions of revenue, which we all need from that source; and they need only then present the radical difference between the two bills, and ask the country, or Congress, to decide which policy it prefers."

## Comments by The Tribune.

We are a little ashamed of THE Evening Post, even while we second its motion. That journal has earned an honorable fame by many directnesses—by striking out squarely from the shoulder. It is a Free Trade organ—made so by its convictions, its traditions, and its interests. Why, then, not frankly say "Free-Traders?" Why barrow and skulk under such a clumsy subterfuge as the phrase "revenue-reformers?" What is to be made by sticking your ostrich head only into the sand, leaving the rest of your frame exposed to that preposterous fashion? THE Post is as thoroughly for Free Trade as THE TRIBUNE is for Protection. If any one has been bought over to subvert the importers' interest, THE Post surely has not, and is under no obligation to shield whoever has. Having done nothing to be ashamed of, why not walk erectly and court the light of day?

We have no right to restrict the Free-Traders in Congress to Mr. Wells's or any one's bill; but we do ask them to take in essence the main course commended by THE Post. Let them meet and appoint their own Committee to draft such a bill as will fairly embody their principle, and then authorize Mr. Brooks, or some one else, to submit it to the House as a substitute for Gen. Schenck's bill, have a day set in advance for taking the vote upon it, and the Yeas and Nays duly recorded thereon, giving notice beforehand that they will not be concluded by any adverse decision of the House, but will appeal therefrom directly to the constituencies in the approaching election for the next House.

How much nobler and better this would be than to attempt a guerrilla warfare in Committee of the Whole, in the hope that they may there disgrace and mutilate Gen. Schenck's bill until it shall have no distinctive character, subvert no interest, and satisfy no one? Do let us unite to discourage picket-firing and insist on a charge along the whole line of battle!

But THE Post's friends in Congress will be careful not to meet us in this way. They think they can do better by carping, and dodging, and quibbling—by voting severally for Protection to Iron, or Wool, or Sugar, or whatever interest may be strong in their respective districts, and against every other, so as to pretend in the next election that they are Protectionists for their constituents, but Free-Traders for all beside. This is the course which they will adopt, and THE Post will chuckle over any petty advantage they may gain by it.

We challenge them to do what THE Post suggests—frame the bill that they approve, submit it to the House as a substitute for Gen. Schenck's, decide its fate by Yeas and Nays on a set day whereof a week's notice shall be given, and, if beaten, let Gen. Schenck's bill pass and appeal to the country—not in vague grumbling and fault-finding, but asking a verdict for their bill through the choice of a House pledged to pass it. If they beat us, we will take the course we have just commended to them. The country will then be called to decide between two radically opposite measures, embodying antagonistic principles. We shall all proceed to discuss those measures in journals, on the stump, by the fireside, and thus enable the public to decide intelligently between them. Shall it be so?

## THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Simultaneously with the report of an alliance between Egypt and Greece, comes the announcement that the Russian Government desires peace. This desire refers to the question of the Montenegrins, which is the question equally of Turkey, Austria, and Prussia. Were the story of the alliance against Turkey as true as the slipper Viceroy might wish to have it, the plicific intentions of the Czar might not be so pronounced. Yet, though the Polyglotism of Austria and Turkey has long been considered a fatal weakness, and the Pan-Slavism of Russia a mighty and aggressive idea, the world does not expect them to leap to conclusions.

Greece and Egypt are, at least, allies in suspicion, who can neither trust nor be trusted. Turkey can place no dependence on the ruler who was once gravely charged with an intrigue for the annexation of Crete to Egypt, to aid which end he was ready to bribe the United States with an offer of the port of Suda for a Mediterranean station. Such a plotter would be glad to have Greek help, and to give Crete away in exchange for it. But is Turkey so weak that her neighbors can thus administer in advance upon her estate? THE London News makes the statement, ridiculed by a journal of much less information, that the new reorganization of their army will give the Turks some seven hundred thousand men in case of necessity, while their fleet is large and highly effective. Instead of the old flint muskets which THE London Times imagines forms so much of their armament, it is stated that the Sultan possesses two hundred thousand stand of breech-loading Sniders and five hundred thousand Enfields. The danger has been, accordingly, not that Egypt would make war upon Turkey, but that the Sultan would begin operations for the purpose of crushing the Viceroy once for all. So far as arms and men may be reckoned, the Turk is judged to be strong, and very strong; and he has been able to borrow upon as good or bad terms as ever. What with his debts and his dangers, war would be equally mad in seeking it. A good part of his people are wretchedly poor, his taxes are dangerously oppressive, and now it is said that the Nile flood has caused \$40,000,000 worth of damages.

In all the changes and complications of the Eastern Question, Russia, as usual, appears to hold the surest and strongest hand. The Montenegrin question, in which it was alleged by the Austrians that Prussia assisted her designs, has only served to show the weight of that hand. The recent remarkable pamphlet of Gen. Fadjew, in which he maintains that no development of Russia is possible without the dis-

solution of Austria, is significant of the zealous Pan-Slavism which has become a national cause among Russians. The Austrian Gen. Turr has replied to him ably, but has been compelled to say to his fellow-townsmen that "not to see the danger is blindness; not to wish to see it is sinful deception." Not the diplomacy of Austria or the strength of Turkey, and certainly not the wishes of Prussia, will be such a bar to the schemes of Russia as the presence at this moment in its borders of a conspiracy of which we have probably not heard the end. Polish hate, Russian plotting, Cossack disorder, all suggest the elements of internal weakness which must act restrainingly upon the designs of the Czar.

## FUNDING GREENBACKS.

The redemption in some shape of our Greenbacks ought to be no longer delayed. Our plan is—Resume!—but, if we cannot carry that, we are ready to do the next best thing. Hence, we call attention to the plan submitted to the Chamber of Commerce on Thursday by Mr. W. P. Groom, in these words:

Resolved, That it is the duty of the Government to issue to the holders of its non-interest-bearing demand obligations, interest-bearing bonds in exchange therefor (whenever they shall request the same); and to be further resolved, That this Chamber respectfully requests Congress to cooperate with the Secretary of the Treasury in enforcing the Legal Tender and National Bank acts, both in spirit and letter; and also to cooperate with him in perfecting a plan whereby an opportunity shall be offered to the holders of the said obligations to fund them (at their option) in sums of \$1,000 and its multiple, into bonds bearing interest at the rate of 3 1/2 to 5 per cent. annu, said bonds (including interest) to be made payable on demand in said legal tender notes.

We are averse to diverse rates of interest on the National Debt. They tend to provoke jealousy and dissatisfaction. We believe that, under proper management, aided by a steady and vigorous reduction of the Debt by purchase or payment, we might rapidly fund the entire Debt in an untaxable American Consol, having thirty or forty years to run and drawing but four per cent. interest, (payable quarterly); but, if we keep talking of 4, 5, and 5 1/2 per cent., we shall of course be unable to fund at four. When we get our Consol to selling freely, we would offer to fund the Greenbacks therein, and thus bring them to par with Gold at once. Few or many might be funded, but all would be raised to par with coin.—But this idea of funding the Legal Tenders in a low-priced bond, itself convertible into Legal Tenders at the option of the holder, is deserving of careful consideration, which we trust it will receive.

## PROGRESS IN JAPAN.

Our news from Yokohama calls attention to the great transformation which in ten years has been effected in the life and business of Japan. The ancient but sequestered country of the Mikados has in that time changed its primitive condition to one of comparative enterprise; and, where the steam-engine was then unknown, has now twenty steamers owned and manned by Japanese. Its exports are \$20,000,000 where none existed before; and schools and universities are established by the Mikado at a rate far from usual to the civilization of his strange country.

The Japanese sovereign, who has had the brave sagacity to pardon his enemies, and to borrow money to build a railroad, deserves a historian. Some venturesome pen will do the world a service by describing the actual government and politics of Japan. In the mean time, with a view to encourage the historian, we print the following remarkable decree:

"We have heard that a great Prince draws after him his subjects by his virtue, while an ordinary ruler meets them with the provisions of the law. In our opinion, the unnatural condition of rebellion depends solely on the possession, or want, of kind virtue in the Sovereign. Now that peace has been restored in our dominions and that the state of things established throughout the Empire, it is our pleasure to grant pardons to Keiki, Yōbō (Adzu), and their adherents, and to encourage them to a spontaneous reform of their lives. Thus shall our royal clemency be extended throughout the Empire."

There are a thousand mortal haters of the wisdom of forgiveness, and these not a thousand miles off, who ought, in strict consistency, to stigmatize the treason of Keiki and Yōbō while they denounce the weakness of the Mikado. But we do not suppose the Mikado would have had the sense to be building railroads if he had not also the sense to pardon his enemies. He has done well.

## HOMICIDE IN SCHOOL.

That which we have, with a painful confidence, long anticipated, has come at last. In November, 1869, in the Skinner School, in Chicago, the teacher had a difficulty with a lad named Willie Atkins. This boy "had previously been affected with a difficulty in the head," and was, therefore, entitled to the patience and consideration of the teacher, who nevertheless undertook to flog him. A struggle ensued, in the course of which the boy's head struck violently against a steam-pipe. Since that time he has remained unconscious and absolutely dumb, until, on the 28th of last month, death came mercifully to relieve him from present and future misery. This is a plain case of homicide—justifiable, may be, by the maxim of Solomon:—we may call it boy-slaughter in the sixth or sixteenth degree, but it is a killing after all possible extenuations. This question then arises: How often, in the discipline of a school, will it be necessary to kill a boy?—a question of decided interest to parents, to guardians, and to the public at large. How many such murders will Committees allow annually to each school? In teaching the young idea how to shoot, how often will it be necessary to finally extinguish the young idea, consigning it to cold obstruction, and abandoning all chance of any further "shooting" altogether?

It is a little strange that the head of a child, being that part for the cultivation and development of which schools are said to be established and maintained, should be the very corporal locality against which teachers appear to entertain a peculiar spite—thumping it, drumming on it, cuffing it, and treating it as if the skull were of cast iron riveted like a steam-boiler, and not of bone still in a pulpy state. Upon this tender organ the passionate teacher advances with clenched fist, with open palm, with the oaken ferule. He declares war against the medulla oblongata; he vents his spleen upon the cerebrum; he smites ferociously the cerebellum, just as if he were hired by society to manufacture the largest possible number of idiots in the smallest possible time. He has so often declared the cranial cavity of his victim to be empty, and the cranial walls to be disgracefully thick, that he plays his tattoo and reveille upon the dome of thought as if it were the bottom of a tin kettle. Nothing is more handy than the head. A boy cannot put it into his pocket, as he puts his fist. There it is, a fair, open and convenient mark for boxing, smiting, hitting, cuffing, and with its ears always ready for an auxiliary pull. Boards of Education are usually very timber-like, knotty, gnarled and cross-grained, and the Chicago Board seems to be no exception to the wooden rule. Last November, the cruelty practiced

upon this boy was officially brought before "the Boarders," and they solemnly resolved that "the charge of undue violence or unnecessary severity on the part of the teacher was not established." Good Heavens! will these Chicago Solons be obliging enough to tell what testimony and how much of it would have been "sufficient?" Here was a boy with his brain ruined, a child fallen into brute unconsciousness or something less, and here was also evidence that he was reduced to this pitiful condition through the passionate physical violence of the teacher; and here, too, as if it were a Coroner's Jury sitting in a railway murder case, we are treated to the everlasting droning verdict of "Nobody to blame!" Why not? Why, because "the boy had previously been affected with a difficulty in the head." Ergo, all boys "with difficulties in the head" may be pounded in that region without the slightest restraint; while, upon the other hand, it would be exceedingly wrong so much as to fill any head happening to be perfectly healthy. We had no idea that the Dogberry breed was so far from being extinct. When we have thus a claim for peculiar tenderness metamorphosed into an excuse for unrestrained severity, we begin to wonder what kind of heads it has pleased Divine Providence to bestow upon the Chicago Board of Education.

We lay it down as a broad and general rule that a school-teacher who cannot manage his or her pupils without destroying their brains by physical violence, is not fit for the business of education; and in these enlightened days would hardly be thought fit to drive a herd of cattle, or to be trusted with the care of horses. Rarely tamed Cruiser by kindness; school-masters and mistresses tame little boys and girls by a free use of the cowhide, which has been banished from all respectable stables. If a brutal driver should kill his steed by over-driving or unnecessary blows, the courts of justice would have something to say about it; but when teachers kill little boys, the bland Boards of Education unanimously resolve that the victim invoked his own fate, and that nobody else is to blame.

In order that we may not be accused of injustice to the teacher or to any person who has been connected with this painful affair, we think it right to add that it has been concluded with one of those ceremonial calls a Coroner's Inquest, and that after hearing the testimony of a large number of doctors the Jury found that the inflammation of the boy's brain "arose from natural causes," and the teacher was "exonerated from all blame in the matter." The fact, however, remains that a lad subject to brain disease was physically maltreated, and never spoke afterward. We leave the intelligent reader to draw his own conclusions.

## STEEL RAILS AND RAILROADS.

As efforts are made to induce the belief that the Protection of Iron and Steel-making is only advocated by Republicans, and that the proposed duty on Steel Rails is adverse to the interest of our Railroads, we have great pleasure in submitting the following correspondence between two eminent Democrats, one of whom is President of the Erie Railroad, and the other potent in Tammany Hall, beside being relied on by Commissioner Wells as an authority in matters connected with Iron. Hear them!

OFFICE OF THE ERIE RAILWAY COMPANY,  
 NEW-YORK, Jan. 26, 1870.

DEAR SIR: Herewith I send you a printed circular, received by me this morning, requesting my signature to a memorial upon the subject of the duty on Steel Rails. I should be pleased, however, to have your views on the subject; and, should you coincide with me in the opinion I have given, I shall feel strengthened in the conviction that the gentlemen whose names are attached to the circular have made a mistake. Respectfully yours,  
 JAY GOULD, President.

ABRAHAM S. HEWITT, esq., No. 17 Burling-st., City.  
 MR. HEWITT'S REPLY.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 27, 1870.

DEAR SIR: I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of 26th inst., and to state that I not only fully concur in the views which you express in regard to the duties on Steel and Iron Rails, but am at a loss to add anything which will make them more forcible; and I venture to suggest that you will allow me to send a copy of your letter to the Committee of Ways and Means. The fact is, that Steel and Iron Rails can be made in suitable quantities in this country—and notably on the line of the Erie Railway—with as little labor as in any part of the world; and the only reason why we pay more for American rails, is because we pay a higher rate for the labor which is required for their manufacture, but for no greater quantity of labor. Free Trade will simply reduce the wages of labor to the foreign standard, which will enable us to sell our rails in competition with foreign rails; but, as a matter of course, the ability of the laborer to consume will be reduced, and a serious loss be inflicted on commerce, general industry, and the business of the railways especially. The only reason why a Tariff is necessary is to supply the laborer with such wages as will enable him to travel and consume not merely the necessities but some of the luxuries of modern civilization.

Besides, if we have Free Trade, we cannot expect to procure our supplies from abroad by increased shipments of grain, for already the European market take from us as much of our grain as we can export; and, in case of need, we will still have to import them to buy more food than we need, and which they now take as a matter of necessity. Faithfully yours,  
 ABRAHAM S. HEWITT.

JAY GOULD, esq., President Erie Railroad.

The governing Canadians have hit upon a logical escape from their Winnipeg troubles, if the rebellion will but please to give out by next May. The Hudson Bay Company are still by title the owning and ruling power of Rupert's Land, inasmuch as their territory will not be purchased and transferred till the 15th of May next. Consequently, they will have to be responsible for all intervening wear and tear of territorial fixtures and appurtenances. Any depreciation of the proposed bargain between them and the Ottawa Cabinet will, by advice of Earl Granville, be deducted out of the one million and a half dollars to be paid them in May. We conceive this to be quite rational, so far as it goes. Nevertheless, it will not release the Canadians from a nettlesome responsibility if the Winnipeg business is protracted.

Two officers sent by the Queen's Cabinet to investigate the Red River trouble are expected in the Dominion by the next steamer. They will urge upon the Canadians the building of their Transcontinental Railroad, which is to ask a people of four millions why they do not at once make themselves forty. The United States are the natural money-market, the natural distributors of population, for this

continent. England may send her over-worked and over-burdened people here to be absorbed and scattered; but there is no efficient force-process of making Canada what she is not. It will require something like another United States to build another Pacific Railroad, and to something like that complexion Canada may come at last.

We give on another page the details of the City Budget for the year, as made up by the Controller and heads of other Departments. We believe the aggregate foots up a little less than the expenses of the last year; but let us not be in haste to exult over the saving. This tax levy has yet to pass the Legislature, and if there are not very heavy additions made before it becomes a law, it will be the first time in ten years that such an extraordinary thing has happened. The history of the Hodges Tax Levy, and the hand our present Mayor had in it, and the almost solid Democratic vote for it, are not forgotten. If these improvements on original estimates can be wrought in the green tree, what may we not expect in the dry? Some years ago, at a critical moment, half a million was put in for judgments against the City, to cover claims which the City officers had with ostentatious virtue rejected in their estimate for the levy, meaning all the time to have them in. When the present bill is through both Houses, we shall be able to get some idea of Democratic economy; but even then it would be well to wait until we have a certified copy, as it has more than once happened that an engrossing clerk has left out words, by accident of course, that entirely changed the meaning of a section. It is affirmed that on one occasion a quarter of a million, "or so much thereof as may be necessary," was appropriated for a Ring Job; but the clerk left out the word "thereof," and opened the door to unlimited expenditure. That little omission cost the tax-payers five hundred thousand dollars. The present estimates are over twelve millions for City purposes alone. If the Legislature cuts it down, look out for "thereof" in some dark corner. We observe, as a specimen item, that the Mayor, who says he has nothing to do, wants \$61,000 for his office. Fernando Wood was Mayor, and no one ever accused him of economy in public funds; but he ran the machine for something less than \$10,000.

Somebody in the Legislature proposes a bill to reduce pawnbroker's interest to seven per cent. It will not work. There have been a dozen plans within as many years for modifying the pawning system, but none of them have had even a trial. It is easy to say that only fifteen, or ten, or seven per cent shall be taken; but the limitation will never be enforced. The necessity that drives one to the pawnbroker knows no law and cares for none. The only way to escape the extortion of twenty-five per cent or loss of pledged property, is to keep away from the pawnbroker, whose business is substantially the same as it was a hundred years ago, and is one of the evils consequent upon improvidence and dissipation. If the patrons of such establishments would spend four-fifths less for whisky and idle pleasure, they might laugh at the proprietors. The business, however, thrives and expands daily, and the thrifty proprietors rapidly accumulate large fortunes. Some time ago a bill was passed to establish a great *Mont de Piété*, whereby the really suffering poor could be accommodated at a reasonable rate, ten per cent, we think; but nothing came of it. There is too much money on the other side. Twenty-five per cent can afford to be liberal, as Albany lawmakers well know.

The inexpressible corruption of the Democratic municipal administration of this city has done more than any other single cause to bring the Democratic party into disrepute and disgrace everywhere. *The World*, a day or two ago, said:

"It so happens that here, in this great focus and center, the Democratic party is all-powerful; and if it is so, it is inevitable that to govern the city wisely, the country will not be likely to trust it with the government of the Union. If the Legislature should give us a bad city charter, its fruits would not be ripe until the time of the next Presidential election."

But what will you do to put an end to the corruption? The men who organize it, and who grow rich upon it, are the leaders of the Democratic party, the authors of its policy, the dictators of its measures in the Legislature, the controllers of its appointments. Will you help us to break down the power of these bad men, and to drive them from place? Or would this also endanger the prospects of the Democratic party, and the ascendancy to which it looks forward?

The *Staats-Zeitung* (Tammany-Democrat) of this city thus welcomes the Excise provision of the proposed new City Charter:

"In regard to the Excise law, perhaps a large part of our German citizens will feel disappointed. The obnoxious Sunday clause has not been stricken out entirely, but it has been so modified that its evasion is easily accomplished, and its strict enforcement made as difficult as possible—that is, in case a police placed under city control would at all think of strictly